

## Message

**From:** Kaiser, Steven [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=10BF2440EDD749D2845015C7AB59FF4B-SKAISE02]  
**Sent:** 10/31/2016 5:01:55 PM  
**To:** Carla Morgan [cmorgan@eastchicago.com]; McCoy, Lisa [LMcCoy@idem.IN.gov]; Snemis, Donald (IDEM) [DSnemis@idem.IN.gov]  
**CC:** Kyte, Larry [kyte.larry@epa.gov]; Leverett Nelson [Nelson.Leverett@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** USS Lead - Press Clippings

East Chicago press clips

US EPA Region 5 – prepared by the Office of Public Affairs

October 31, 2016

-----

**WBAA (NPR) - More Lead Cleanup To Begin Soon In East Chicago**

NWI Times – EPA to re-evaluate cleanup plan for part of Superfund site

NWI Times - HUD: No 'hard-and-fast' deadline to move from West Calumet

Post-Tribune - Residents organize as EPA crews mobilize in East Chicago

Post-Tribune - East Chicago residents continue search for housing, HUD pledges flexibility (this clip to be sent in following email due to size constraints)

Indiana Daily Student - East Chicago residents deal with finding new homes after lead contamination (this clip to be sent in following email due to size constraints)

Post-Tribune - Former East Chicago Mayor Pastrick dead at 88 (this clip to be sent in following email due to size constraints)

-----

<http://wbaa.org/post/more-lead-cleanup-begin-soon-east-chicago#stream/0>

**More Lead Cleanup To Begin Soon In East Chicago**

By Nick Janzen • Oct 28, 2016

[TweetShareGoogle+Email](#)

Cleanup begins soon on one of the sections of the lead contaminated West Calumet neighborhood in East Chicago.

It comes after the Environmental Protection Agency found arsenic in the soil and announced lead contamination levels 100 times higher than what's considered safe.

In this section of the site, the EPA will remove contaminated soil from 13 yards. Crews will dig down about 2 feet, dispose of the contaminated soil, and replace it with lead-free soil.

This is one of three zones in the cleanup site.

Clean up in a second area is on hold, after East Chicago Mayor Anthony Copeland ordered residents to move out and the West Calumet Housing Complex demolished because of the contamination.

Clean up in the third area, also a residential neighborhood, began last month. So far, nine of 39 contaminated properties have been cleaned up.

About 3,000 people live on the Superfund site.

The lead and arsenic contamination is a byproduct of the former lead smelting industry in the area, which was declared a federal clean up site in 2009.

[http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/epa-to-re-evaluate-cleanup-plan-for-part-of-superfund/article\\_7ecca3cd-e638-51ad-8073-499e466d0eea.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/epa-to-re-evaluate-cleanup-plan-for-part-of-superfund/article_7ecca3cd-e638-51ad-8073-499e466d0eea.html)

## EPA to re-evaluate cleanup plan for part of Superfund site

- [Sarah Reese sarah.reese@nwi.com](mailto:sarah.reese@nwi.com), (219) 933-3351
- Updated Oct 29, 2016

---

Top of Form

---

Bottom of Form

EAST CHICAGO — The U.S. EPA said Friday it has agreed to re-evaluate cleanup alternatives at the site of a public housing complex slated for demolition, including an option the city favored in 2012 calling for excavation down to native sand.

The new feasibility study will be conducted much like a previous study released in 2012, according to a statement. As part of the study, the Environmental Protection Agency will “possibly look at new cleanup alternatives for the West Calumet Housing Complex in zone 1,” the agency said.

The EPA will reconsider an option to excavate all soil down to native sand, regardless of contamination levels, but is waiting on the city to signal whether redevelopment of the area will be for industrial or residential use.

City officials pushed for excavation down to native sand in 2012, after the EPA released the previous feasibility study and signaled it planned to choose a cheaper option that called for excavation to a depth determined to be safe for residential use.

The city's favored option would have cost about \$43.8 million, according to a 2012 EPA fact sheet. The option the EPA ultimately chose was estimated to cost \$28.9 million.

The EPA found contamination in zone 1 of the Superfund site, which includes the West Calumet Housing Complex and Carrie Gosch Elementary School, to be more widespread and greater in magnitude than previously estimated, the agency said.

The city received full testing results in May and, after asking the EPA to relocate residents, ordered more than 1,000 people living in the housing complex to relocate.

The relocation process has been rocky, and the city and attorneys at a poverty law center are continuing to negotiate a fair housing complaint.

The new feasibility study could take at least six months to finish, but delays in determining the future land use could affect the completion date, the EPA said.

East Chicago City Attorney Carla Morgan said the city pushed for the new feasibility study so officials could make an informed decision about future land use.

"EPA has been asking us about future land use," she said. "Our response is, 'We can't give you a definite answer when we don't know what the possibilities are, and we don't have a real commitment of adequate demolition funds.' "

The EPA has maintained it could have cleaned up zone 1 without relocating the housing complex residents.

Morgan said the level of contamination at the complex — which was built in the footprint of the demolished Anaconda Lead Products factory, possibly without any environmental remediation — is too high for residents to safely remain during cleanup.

Children exposed to lead can suffer permanent neurological damage, she said, and the city wants to stop any harm and give kids the best possible chance at life.

Mayor Anthony Copeland, who recently has said the health of residents is his No. 1 concern, said at an EPA meeting in 2012 that he wanted "to err on the side of safety," according to a transcript of the meeting. He also talked about the challenges the city might face in redeveloping the area and said he feared the area would become a "wasteland" if the EPA chose its preferred alternative.

[http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/hud-no-hard-and-fast-deadline-to-move-from-west/article\\_585c3612-abe9-57d6-8360-92b05acc14f2.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/hud-no-hard-and-fast-deadline-to-move-from-west/article_585c3612-abe9-57d6-8360-92b05acc14f2.html)

## HUD: No 'hard-and-fast' deadline to move from West Calumet

- [Lauren Cross lauren.cross@nwi.com](mailto:lauren.cross@nwi.com), 219-933-3206
- Updated Oct 29, 2016

EAST CHICAGO — So far, just 33 of the 332 families at the West Calumet Housing Complex have found a new place to live after the city's mayor dropped a bombshell earlier this summer they need to relocate due to dangerously high toxins in the soil.

Under U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines, residents are typically given 60 days from the day vouchers are issued to find a place. The East Chicago Housing Authority handed out the majority of vouchers on Sept. 1, meaning they are slated to expire Monday.

Carla Morgan, city attorney, said last week it's the city's position that it is safer for children to move now to avoid continued exposure to lead and arsenic. But James Cunningham, deputy regional administrator for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, reassured last week there is no hard-and-fast deadline to move people out.

"This is a unique situation. That date is just a target. It's not a hard-and-fast date. We're trying to be as flexible as we can to get folks the time they need to find housing," Cunningham said. "Nobody is going to be without a home."

Cunningham said residents can also request up to two 30-day extensions.

HUD officials have provided counseling for residents and other resources. Shortly after the Chicago-based Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law filed a housing discrimination complaint, which alleged a confused and rushed relocation process, the East Chicago Housing Authority agreed to set aside more than \$1 million to help with moving costs, security deposits and application fees.

The Shriver Center continues to negotiate the complaint with ECHA and HUD.

The East Chicago Housing Authority set a target date of December 1 to move everyone out of the complex, according to ECHA documents, but that goal appears more unlikely as families report limited housing options.

Morgan said the ECHA is also reaching out to families who moved from West Calumet within the last year. About 45 are eligible for relocation vouchers, she said. About 20 were evicted or violated HUD rules, deeming them ineligible, she said.

### **'East Chicago Undivided'**

Residents on Saturday met with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to learn about resources available to them as a newly formed Community Advisory Group. Under EPA guidelines, the Community Advisory Group, which is going by the name 'East Chicago Undivided,' allows residents to take concerns to the EPA.

The group will be made up of those living in the EPA's USS Lead Superfund site, which has been divided into three cleanup zones. The site added to the federal agency's National Priorities List in April 2009.

Officials on Saturday outlined available technical assistance, on-the-ground public outreach, community training, meeting facilitation, and a mediator for conflicts and resolutions.

State Rep. Lonnie Randolph, D-East Chicago, who spearheaded early efforts to form the Calumet Lives Matter coalition with public housing residents, told those at the meeting "not to ignore" interests of other groups and the needs of families living at the housing complex.

Maritza Lopez, a resident on Euclid Avenue in the Superfund zone and a spokesperson for the group, said the CAG is all inclusive. She said she and several others have been knocking on doors, urging families in West Calumet to attend the meetings.

"I have reached out and I will continue to reach out because I care," she said.

Now is the time to unite, she said.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-ptb-east-chicago-zone-two-excavation-st-1030-20161029-story.html>

## **Residents organize as EPA crews mobilize in East Chicago**

Craig Lyons

Chicago Tribune

October 29, 2016

Residents in East Chicago's Calumet neighborhood finalized the formation of a new advocacy group just as the Environmental Protection Agency is poised to begin excavation of contaminated soil in the area.

The group – dubbed East Chicago Undivided by its members – is an advocacy and outreach group that works with the EPA to provide residents around the U.S.S. Lead Superfund site with information regarding clean up, health care and property issues. On Saturday, East Chicago Undivided learned from the EPA what resources are available to help with outreach programs.

Maritza Lopez, a member of the group, said East Chicago Undivided needs to get out into the community to provide residents with information about what's happening at the site and to work with local officials so people are aware of what's going on.

"We care and we support each other," Lopez said.

Janet Pope, a community outreach coordinator with the EPA, said the community advocacy group will have access to technical assistance programs to help its efforts and a firm to help with material and meeting facilitators.

"We're here to assist every way we can," Pope said.

The group knows what's happening in the community, as the members all live there, Pope said, and that information can help the EPA make decisions regarding the Superfund site.

Even though a community advocacy group could have formed years ago when the site got Superfund designation in 2009, Lopez said no one knew that option was available.

"This should have been done starting in 2009," Lopez said.

Once residents knew an advocacy group that works with the EPA could be formed, Lopez said people started reaching out to pull together members of the community.

"We shouldn't be fighting," Lopez said. "We're all going through this together."

The group's formation comes just as the EPA is set to start removing contaminated soil from part of the Superfund site.

The new round of excavation will focus on Zone 2 of the site, which runs from McCook Avenue to East Huish Drive, and will center on 13 homes with the highest concentrations of lead and arsenic in the soil, the EPA said Thursday.

The EPA began sampling soil in Zone 2 this summer, according to the EPA, and has received results for 412 of the 590 homes in the area.

The excavation at the homes in Zone 2 could start as early as Monday, weather permitting, but the EPA is still working on developing individual plans for each home and meeting with residents to go over the scope of work.

"There's a lot of detail that have to be done," EPA representative Jim Mitchell said.

As the final preparations are made, Mitchell said the work will mirror what's happening in Zone 3, the area of the Superfund site from Huish Drive to Parrish Avenue.

"There shouldn't be any difference in our approach," Mitchell said.

During the excavation, the EPA will dig out up to 2 feet of soil, depending on the levels of contamination, and replace that with clean fill. The properties will then be re-sodded and restored.

Haag said the excavation can take two to three days, with another day needed to backfill the property and another day to put down the sod. Haag said the main goal is safety, so the EPA works as quickly as possible to minimize the time that a hole is left open.

Before the work starts, Haag said residents are advised about steps being taken to reduce any exposure to the contaminated soil.

During the work, Mitchell said the EPA does air and water monitoring to check for any contamination that's might be going out into the neighborhood. Some of the air monitors provide real-time information, Mitchell said, and if any high levels of particulate material are found, work will stop until a solution is found to prevent that from happening.

The goal of the excavation and restoration isn't just to remove the contaminated soil, Mitchell said, but to make sure residents are happy with the work that's being done and that their property is left in good condition.

"We've got their best interest at heart," Mitchell said.

The clean up plan for zones 1 and 3 were included in a 2014 consent decree, which the U.S. District Court for Northern Indiana approved, between the EPA, the U.S. Department of Justice, the state of Indiana, the Atlantic Richfield Co. and E.I. du Pont De Nemours regarding the cleanup of the U.S. Smelter and Lead Refinery site.

Based on the agreement, the two companies would pay for roughly \$26 million in cleanup costs, according to the EPA.

Not included in the plan was zone 2, which is the portion of the U.S.S. Lead site with boundaries at East Chicago Avenue to the north, East 151<sup>st</sup> Street to the South, East Huish Drive to the West and McCook Avenue to the east.

The EPA will pay for the clean up in zone 2 until it can recoup costs from responsible parties.

## East Chicago residents continue search for housing, HUD pledges flexibility

Craig LyonsChicago Tribune

Like most of her East Chicago public housing complex neighbors, Jalisa Wash has run into problems in her scramble to find a new place to live — away from the lead and arsenic contaminated soil of the West Calumet Housing Complex.

Wash, like many others, has had trouble sifting through a limited availability of housing alternatives and lacks the funds needed up front to cover the costs of security deposits and moving. She said she found an apartment in neighboring Gary, but couldn't afford to put the money down herself.

The East Chicago Housing Authority can reimburse residents for their relocation costs, but they need to pay out of pocket first.

"I'm at a standstill," Wash said.

Nearly 60 days have passed since the vouchers issued to West Calumet housing complex residents took effect. They're set to expire Monday.

So far, just 29 of the 332 families who lived at the public housing complex have found a new place to live after East Chicago Mayor Anthony Copeland ordered the residents to leave. The soil around the complex has high levels of lead and arsenic contamination.

Officials from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development said that despite the initial voucher expiration date, West Calumet residents should not be concerned about the approaching deadline. The federal housing agency plans to give them the time they need to find a new home.

"This is not the normal process," said James Cunningham, a HUD deputy regional administrator. "We're going to give them all the flexibility."

Under the normal voucher process, residents have 60 days to relocate with up to two 30-day extensions, Cunningham said. But in the case of West Calumet residents, HUD will meet the needs of the residents, he said.

"No one's being kicked out," Cunningham said.

Wash, who had to renew her voucher last week, said she's still looking.

"It's just kind of hard," Wash said. "We just haven't had any luck."

Luck may be exactly what Nayesa Walker had come her way.

Walker said she found a house in Hammond and is just waiting for the paperwork to be finalized so she can start moving.

"I get that done and then I can call it a day," Walker said.

Before Walker got the call about the available house, she said had a step-by-step and day-by-day approach, just like the remaining residents of West Calumet.

"It was very frustrating," Walker said. "But luckily I came up on something."

From HUD's perspective, Cunningham said, the relocation is going along well.

"The pace is pretty much what we expected," Cunningham said.

Carla Morgan, East Chicago's city attorney, said the city hoped the process would be farther along, but mass relocations take time.

The biggest challenge is the lack of available housing options, Morgan said. Housing counselors continue to work with residents to identify housing possibilities and to look outside the area.

"We wish it were easier for people to find affordable, good housing," Morgan said.

One of the options for West Calumet residents is to move to a neighboring housing authority, whether elsewhere in Northwest Indiana or in Cook County, Cunningham said. Nearly 200 families are trying to use that option, he said.

"There's no place to go for that many people," said Sherry Hunter, a community activist.

For now, despite the contamination in the ground that prompted Copeland to order residents out of the complex, the Environmental Protection Agency continues cleaning individual residences around the complex and checking mulch to ensure there's no exposed soil.

The city's not comfortable with people still living at the complex, but didn't want to put added hardship on people, Morgan said.

"We're trying to do the best we can with a bad situation," Morgan said.

While housing officials and the city want to see the residents relocated as quickly as possible, there's no immediate danger the complex will close its doors. Cunningham said the East Chicago Housing Authority submitted a demolition request but that's still in progress.

"It's really going to be when the last person is able to find suitable housing that it's going to be over," Cunningham said.

City and HUD officials said there's no hard deadline but as the weeks go on, residents try to move forward.

"We just keep our faith up," Wash said.

<http://www.idsnews.com/article/2016/10/east-chicago-residents-deal-with-finding-new-homes-after-lead-contamination>



# East Chicago residents deal with finding new homes after lead contamination

---

By Laurel Demkovich

Published 17 hours ago Updated 13 hours ago

EAST CHICAGO, Ind. – Driving away from the poisoned dirt, Tara Adams stared through the rain at the road ahead.

She turned to her neighbor in the passenger seat. “Do I throw away my mattresses? What about my washer and dryer?”

Her mattresses were old, so she didn’t mind throwing them out, but her washer and dryer were new.

Everything was happening so fast. Adams, 43, and her neighbor Rita Rolan, 40, lived in the West Calumet Housing Complex in East Chicago, Indiana, where lately moving vans could be seen on every corner. Signs had sprouted near the playgrounds and lawns: “DO NOT PLAY IN THE DIRT OR AROUND THE MULCH.”

The soil in the complex contained alarmingly high amounts of lead. Some yards’ levels reached 70 times the level before the Environmental Protection Agency requires emergency removal.

The EPA had advised parents to keep kids indoors, wash their toys and hands regularly and remove their shoes before they came in the house. Despite the warnings, children in the complex continued to run from yard to yard, throw footballs and ride their red-and-white tricycles. Because where else could they go?

The houses would be demolished in a few short months, so Adams had no other choice but to spend this Saturday morning driving from town to town in Northwest Indiana searching for a new place to call home.

With a Section 8 voucher, confusing rules and procedures for moving and only a few months to find a rental, the search was becoming more difficult each day.

Trying to stay positive, Adams rolled down the windows and turned on “Lovers & Friends” by Lil Jon & the East Side Boyz.

“Get ready for the concert!” Adams said as she began to sing.

Laughing, Rolan sang along. “We gotta laugh to keep from crying.”

\*\*\*

In May, Adams got the knock on the door. The East Chicago Housing Authority was passing out forms, telling everyone to get their children tested for lead. Just a precaution, they said. Nothing was wrong. That’s when many residents brought their children to the housing authority office to get their fingers pricked.

A week later, Adams and the other residents found out the extent of the lead contamination in their neighborhood. Built in the early 1970s, the complex had been constructed on the grounds of an old lead smelter site. Lead and arsenic had seeped into the soil where about 680 children played, inside the houses where Adams and Rolan and their families had lived for nearly eight years and into the blood of many children and adults.

About 1,000 people lived in the complex, in an area of Indiana just outside Chicago where rural country and urban suburb meet. Smokestacks loomed over cornfields and subdivisions. Most nights, the haze in the air blocked all of the stars except the Big Dipper.

In East Chicago, most residents were black, Latino or Hispanic. The median household income was around \$27,000, and the population below the poverty line was nearly twice the national average.

City officials might not have known the extent of the contamination until May, but the lead wasn't new. The EPA had been talking about cleaning up the site since the 1980s. They'd even begun to replace some of the soil.

Residents asked questions every chance they could. But sometimes the answers didn't help.

"Should you have kids playing in your yard?" one resident asked at a hearing in 2012. "No. But can you keep your kids from playing in your yard? No. So what are you going to do? Let your kids play."

In late July, residents learned they would need to be gone by December.

The crisis mirrored a situation earlier this year in Flint, Michigan, which is in the same EPA region as East Chicago. Lead contaminated Flint's drinking water after the city switched its supply, poisoning many people, especially children.

In East Chicago, a sign near the housing authority's main office read: A Community That Cares. Near the playground, the water tower said: For Our Children.

Adams shared her house with her three children and one grandchild, ranging in age from 2 to 22. No one living in her house had high amounts of lead in their system, thankfully. Her family was lucky. In other houses, kids threw up and had headaches, chills and fevers.

Seeing the children affected by lead angered Adams the most. She worked in childcare for more than 20 years and as a special education instructor in the School City of East Chicago for three years. She said these kids were already labeled or belittled because of where they came from, something out of their control.

Like most moms' cars, her 2016 white Toyota Camry was ready for anything. It was complete with a car seat in the back, a LeapFrog workbook, lotion and snacks. It was September, but the coffee cup sitting in the cup holder said "Merry Christmas!" Her kids had lost her other ones.

Adams wanted a something better for her children. A life where their names weren't associated with poverty or lead contamination. A life where they didn't settle – like Adams had when she moved into the complex eight years ago. A life where they felt comfortable and safe.

That all would start with finding the perfect house.

She had little information from the EPA, the housing authority or city officials. So, driving toward the first house on the list, Adams still had the same thoughts, questions and worries she'd had months ago.

Thinking out loud, she asked herself, "What's next?"

\*\*\*

Adams's house – the one nearest the front gate of the complex – never felt like a home. It was one of the first rentals she could find, and she never planned to stay more than a year. She hung nothing on the walls. She was always ready to move.

Now she finally had that chance. A tower of boxes, some empty and some filled with toys, sat in her back room. Stacks of green bins containing clothes and blankets lined the edges of her hallway. Broken-down boxes leaned against the walls near her front door.

The next house she lived in, she needed to love.

"I don't want to live like that again," she said.

She needed a five-bedroom house and would move anywhere except for Gary. After looking at crime rates and school systems, Gary seemed like her last option. And yet, on hour two of her house search, Adams found herself crossing the border into Gary.

Adams turned onto a street with a house Rolan wanted to see. Boarded-up houses sat on both sides. Rolan began counting: "One, two, three, four, five, six, seven."

"Here it is," Adams said, slowing down. The window blinds were broken and the siding on the house looked cracked.

"Across from the seventh abandoned house? No, thank you."

The East Chicago Housing Authority had received \$1.9 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to help families move. Each family received a Section 8 voucher based on income to cover rent. The housing authority also reimbursed them for relocation costs.

Their vouchers could be used anywhere in the country, but when residents tried to find a house in a city other than East Chicago, they had to "port over" – a process that could take weeks. Once they ported over, they ran the risk of not finding a house in that city. Then they'd be stuck and have to start the process again.

Many landlords didn't accept Section 8 vouchers, and many believed a stereotype surrounding government housing that Adams and Rolan said they'd felt time and time again.

"Hi, do you accept Section 8?"

"No."

Click.

They felt grouped as uneducated, poor, low-class. The vouchers helped them move, but the stigma behind them hurt.

As Adams and Rolan stared down the street in Gary, they looked at the boarded-up houses and overgrown weeds. Defeated, Adams sped away.

“Maybe I’m just being picky,” she said.

\*\*\*

Hundreds of residents crowded their community center at an Aug. 3 public hearing wanting answers. When did they need to be gone? How would they move? Would they be getting vouchers or relocation reimbursements?

Between 1970 and 1973, the West Calumet Housing Complex had been built on the site of the Anaconda Lead Products facility. Lead dust also blew onto the site from the U.S. Smelter and Lead Refinery that sat just to the south.

USS Lead ceased operations in 1985. Soil samples done by the EPA at that time showed lead levels at 100 parts per million. In 1997, soil samples at the complex came back at up to 140 ppm. The EPA doesn’t begin cleanup until 400 ppm. A memo with the 1997 soil called for “no further assessment.”

When Adams moved into her house in 2008, she knew none of this.

During the years since USS Lead closed, mayors, representatives and government officials on nearly every level expressed concerns to EPA administrators about the health risks of living on this soil. In 2009, the property was named an EPA Superfund site.

Although the EPA tested the soil in the complex for years, city officials said that they didn’t see any results until May. Adams and other residents were not convinced.

For Adams, the government, a system that asks for trust every day, let them down.

“They lied to us from the beginning,” Adams said. “On purpose.”

\*\*\*

Adams drove 20 minutes south to Merrillville, a town filled with car dealerships, subdivisions and the area’s biggest shopping mall. Almost half the population was white, and the median household income was nearly double that in East Chicago.

Adams saw a subdivision and decided to drive through it, even though it wasn’t on her or Rolan’s list. The neighborhood was filled with vinyl-sided houses, each looking the same as the next. The houses had two stories and yards lined with perfectly-cut grass.

This was what Adams wanted – a house big enough for all five children and a yard where they could play. But with her voucher of \$1,229, she knew she could never afford it.

Her ideal house would have two levels and a basement. It would be in a town with a good school system for her two youngest children. It would have a two-car garage and a large window in the living room for the sun to shine through.

Adams sighed and reached for her bag of Life Savers Gummies. “I can dream, can’t I?”

\*\*\*

An hour passed, and Adams headed toward Hammond, crossing over railroad tracks and passing a movie theater, a few parks, a dance studio and a gun range. There were only certain places in Hammond she would consider. Like East Chicago, Hammond had many industrial areas, and Adams wanted to get away from that.

Adams turned onto a street to look at the final house of the day. As she pulled up, she wasn’t discouraged right away.

The neighborhood was nice, and the house looked big – big enough for all five of them. The surrounding houses were colorful, a first of all the neighborhoods they had seen that day.

This one-story house on the corner was butter-yellow. It had a garage and trees in the front yard, which was large enough for her children to play. She smiled and nodded, feeling like she was finally getting somewhere. Moving was a headache, and the urgency of it was frustrating. But maybe it was all for the best.

Despite how much she loved the house, Adams couldn’t let herself get too excited. She need to port into Hammond, so she could apply her voucher, which could take weeks. During this process, another family with a voucher already in Hammond could take the house.

Despite the long weeks ahead, Adams was hopeful for the first time all day. She switched the car into drive and turned up the radio. “My Girl” by The Temptations was playing. She looked at Rolan and got ready to sing.

*I’ve got sunshine on a cloudy day.*

*When it’s cold outside, I’ve got the month of May.*

The hassle of moving hurt now. When it was over, though, she was sure it would be better than it was before.

To her, the whole thing was a game. But she was going to win.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/post-tribune/news/ct-ptb-robert-pastrick-dead-st-1029-20161028-story.html>

## Former East Chicago Mayor Pastrick dead at 88

Longtime East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick, who ran the city for more than 30 years, died Friday.

Pastrick, 88, both helped modernize the industrial city and saw it through moments of noted corruption. The former mayor's 33-year tenure — making him the longest-serving mayor in East Chicago's history — was a capstone to his service as a city councilor and East Chicago comptroller and his 50-plus years as an active figure in Democratic politics.

"He epitomized East Chicago," Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr. said. "He was a legend."

To serve as a mayor for 33 years is no small feat, McDermott said.

"Always a consummate gentleman, Pastrick was a statesman on a national scale," he said.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth Ann, and their seven children.

"The city of East Chicago extends its deepest condolences to the Pastrick family," the city of East Chicago said in a statement.

Outside of his service to the city, Pastrick led the Young Democrats in the 1950s and was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1972, 1986, 2000, 2004 and 2008.

"You couldn't find anyone who worked harder for or had more pride in his community than Bob Pastrick," Democratic gubernatorial candidate John Gregg said in a statement. "We extend our condolences to his family, friends and all those his life touched."

Lake County Prosecutor Bernie Carter, originally from East Chicago, said he was surprised by the news. He said he saw Pastrick a couple of weeks ago at a political function.

"He was a strong supporter of Evan Bayh," Carter said.

Pastrick did many things for the city that Carter said helped lay the groundwork for what East Chicago is doing today. Carter said the former mayor was an advocate for youth working through the schools and park system.

"To remember him as a person, as a human being, he was such an inspiration to many young people who are now empowered," Carter said.

McDermott said he's known Pastrick since he was a kid, and upon McDermott's election as Hammond's mayor, East Chicago's senior politician was there to help.

"He was sort of my mentor when I first became mayor," McDermott said.

On the day of the 2010 Democratic caucus in East Chicago, Pastrick paid a visit to Mayor Anthony Copeland, city attorney Carla Morgan said, recalling Copeland's story. Pastrick reportedly told Copeland "he could rest easy now knowing that his city was in capable hands," before saying a prayer on his behalf.

Lake County Sheriff John Buncich confirmed Friday he received word of Pastrick's death. He described the former East Chicago mayor as a good friend who he has known for many years.

"To me, he was a good mayor. He had a concern about East Chicago," Buncich said. He offered his condolences to Pastrick's family.

Buncich said that when someone is in a top political position as long as Pastrick was, as a mayor, political leader and party chairman, you make enemies.

"That's politics. He was a true gentleman. We are going to miss him," Buncich said.

Pastrick was defeated in 2004 by George Pabey after the sidewalks-for-votes political scandal involving Pastrick and his administration.

In 2010, Pastrick was one of three people ordered to pay more than \$108 million in damages to the city in a civil case in the sidewalks-for-votes scandal. Pastrick was not charged with any criminal offenses in connection with the investigation.

It was the first time a city government had been adjudged a corrupt organization under federal racketeering laws, according to Attorney General Greg Zoeller at the time.

As mayor, Pastrick is both remembered with fondness for his accomplishments in East Chicago but also derided for a series of political scandals.

On Chicago Avenue, just blocks from City Hall, a man sitting outside of Joe's Hardware said he'd met Pastrick at the very start of his career and thought he was friendly. But then Pastrick "got to be too busy."

"He was a good mayor for a long time, but I think he slacked off," said the man, who declined to give his name. "He kept the city alive when he started out, though."

Vincent "J.J." Bedoy, who works at Joe's, was a bit less sympathetic.

"My parents and a lot of people really respected him, but the reality is there's a great deal of economic failure in this city (because of him)," Bedoy said.

Carter said that while the end of Pastrick's career was tarnished with the sidewalks-for-votes scandal, the former mayor did many good things for East Chicago in his decades of service.

A 2001 documentary, "The King of Steeltown," tracked Pastrick's re-election bid during his 1999 campaign. The film looked at East Chicago's monolithic politician but did not ignore allegations of corruption.

"Sometimes you have to look at the positives. Everybody makes mistakes and may want to redo something. He did so many good things. He has a beautiful family and fine children who went on to do great things and participate in society and the community to make a positive impact," Carter said.

Lake County Councilwoman Christine Cid, D-East Chicago, offered her condolences to the Pastrick family.

"Mayor Pastrick became one of the most recognizable and beloved mayors of East Chicago. He will be missed," Cid said.

*Post-Tribune staff reporter Craig Lyons and freelancers Carrie Napoleon and Michelle L. Quinn contributed.*

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-ptb-east-chicago-relocation-update-st-1030-20161028-story.html>

Sincerely,

Steven P. Kaiser  
Office of Regional Counsel

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604  
(312) 353 - 3804